

Fly Ash Released by Thermal Power Stations

- (4) Raising the height of chimneys in power stations; and

*462. **SHRI UTTAMRAO DEORAO PATIL:** Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that fly ash released by thermal power stations is causing immense harm to human health besides causing environmental pollution,

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether studies have been undertaken in this regard,

(d) if so, the results thereof, and

(e) the concrete steps taken or proposed to be taken to tackle this menace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) and (b). Fly ash generated from thermal power stations, if not disposed off in appropriate manner, may cause environmental pollution and be hazardous to health.

(c) and (d). A socio-economic survey conducted in the Singrauli area during 1988-91 in regard to public health has not specifically found any health problems being caused due to fly ash pollution.

(e) Government has taken the following steps to mitigate the problems arising from fly ash accumulation near thermal power stations:

- (1) Issue of certain guidelines for pro-

motion of fly ash based products like bricks, cement, etc.;

- (2) Establishment of pit head coal beneficiation plants for power grade coals;

- (3) Augmentation of pollution control devices like mechanical and electrostatic precipitators as a part of renovation and modernisation programmes;

- (5) Increasing the exit velocity of gases.

Pilot Study Stations

*463. **SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI:** Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to have pilot study stations linked by radio and screen;

(b) if so, the details thereof,

(c) whether the All India Radio has developed any paging system to facilitate communications to and from remote places in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) to (d). The Research Department of All India Radio has developed a dual sub carrier system named radiotext/SCA (Subsidiary Channel Authorisation) for providing additional auxiliary services in the broadcast band without disturbing the normal programme. All India Radio proposes to establish a pilot study centre in one of the operational FM stations. The system would provide transmission of text in all India languages and one speech quality second programme. A special decoder with monitor

would be needed at the listeners end for viewing the text.

Research Department of AIR is currently developing a Paging system to be used on FM network of AIR. The Paging system helps only for establishment of faster communication and does not provide a link for two way communication.

ITDC Hotels

*464. KUMARI FRIDA TOPNO:
SHRI RAM BADAN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to privatise the hotels run by ITDC;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c). Government have formulated a scheme whereby small groups of ITDC hotels would be formed for the purpose of developing them as joint ventures with reputed foreign hotel chains. In the first instance, two groups of four hotels each are proposed to be developed in this manner.

Demand and Supply of Energy

*465. SHRIMATI MAHENDRA
KUMARI:
SHRI RAJENDRA
AGNIHOTRI:

Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL, ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a gap between demand and supply of energy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have taken any steps during the last two years in economising the use of energy in order to bridge this gap; and

(d) if so, the total energy saved during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) and (b). During the period April, 1991-February, 1992, the energy requirement in the country was 262799 million units against which the availability was 242367 million units which represents a shortfall of 7.8%.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Most projects are being executed on a decentralised basis and hence savings cannot be quantified. However, UNDP project has estimated the energy saving potential as Rs. 37.98 Crores per annum in the 45 units audited by the project. Similarly the Indo-EC programme have projected a saving potential of Rs. 7 Crores per annum in small and medium scale industries studied under the programme.

[Translation]

Employment by BALCO

*466. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ:
Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the local people of the area are not being provided employment by the Bharat Aluminum Company Limited;

(b) if so, whether it is proposed to set up any cell for providing employment to the local